

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A fabric comprising a plurality of substantially parallel, aligned tows with ~~every parallel-aligned tow~~ said tows arranged in one of a plurality of tow groups, each of said tow groups having one or more tows wherein a portion of said tow groups contain two or more tows, wherein the spacing between tows in a tow group is less than the spacing between juxtaposed tow groups, ~~and~~ wherein each tow has a longitudinal axis and the longitudinal axes of said tows in said tow groups are in a coplanar relationship, ~~and wherein said longitudinal axes of said tows are held in place in said coplanar relationship.~~

2. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said adjacent tow groups contain an even number of tows.

3. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said adjacent tow groups contain an odd number of tow(s).

4. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fabric comprises reinforced composite material.

5. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein the spacing between the adjacent tow groups defines a flow channel.

6. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said tows are stitched together.

7. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein the spacing between the adjacent tow groups is between about 0.155 to about 1.28 centimeters.

8. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fabric is a crimp-free fabric.

9. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said yield of each of said tows is between about 52 to about 450 yards/pound.

10. (Original) The fabric of claim 9, wherein said yield of said tows is between about 52 to about 350 yards/pound.

11. (Original) The fabric of claim 10, wherein said yield of each of said tows is between about 150 to about 220 yards/pound.

12. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fabric is a unidirectional fabric.

13. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fabric is a biaxial fabric.

14. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fabric is a triaxial fabric.

15. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fabric is a quadaxial fabric.

16. (Original) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said tows comprise composite fibers selected from the group consisting of glass and thermoplastic.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of making a fabric comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of substantially parallel tows, each tow having a longitudinal axis;

arranging all of said tows in tow groups, each of said tow group containing one or more tows wherein a portion of said tow groups contain two or more tows;

aligning said tows so that the longitudinal axes of said tows are in a coplanar relationship;

holding the longitudinal axes of said tows in place in a coplanar relationship;

providing a space between said at least two of said tow groups, wherein the spacing between tows in a tow group is less than the spacing between juxtaposed tow groups.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said tow groups are stitched together.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said fabric is a crimp-free fabric.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said yield of each of said tows is between about 150 to about 500 yards/pound.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said yield of each of said tows is between about 150 to about 250 yards/pound.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein said yield of each of said tows is between about 190 to about 220 yards/pound.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said fabric is a unidirectional fabric.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said fabric is a biaxial fabric.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said fabric is a triaxial fabric.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said fabric is a quadaxial fabric.

27. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the spacing between the adjacent tow groups is between about 0.155 to about 1.28 centimeters.

28. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the spacing between the adjacent tow groups defines a flow channel.

29. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of infusing said fabric with resin using a resin transfer molding process.

30. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of infusing said fabric with resin using a vacuum assisted resin transfer molding system.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said fabric is infused with a resin selected from the group consisting of polyesters and copolyesters.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein said polyesters are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyamides, polyolefins, and polypropylene.

33. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein said fabric is infused with a resin selected from the group consisting of polyesters and copolyesters.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein said polyesters are selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polyamides, polyolefins, and polypropylene.